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8 THINGS TO KNOW

Rocky, aka Rakim Mayers, pleaded no guilty to the June 30 incident.

In Swedish court, teenager claims rapper A$AP Rocky kicked and punched him

A$AP Rocky REUTERS

A teenager told a Swedish court on Tuesday that he was kicked and punched by rapper A$AP Rocky and two of his entourage during an altercation outside a hamburger restaurant in Stockholm last month.

The 30-year-old performer, producer and model, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, pleaded not guilty to a charge of assault on the first day of a trial that prompted President Donald Trump to intervene on the artist's behalf.

Mayer was detained on July 3 in connection with a street brawl on June 30 and later charged with assault causing actual bodily harm.

Outlining his case using videos from security cameras and witnesses' mobile phones, prosecutor Daniel Suneson said that following an altercation in central Stockholm, Mayers threw 19-year-old Mustafa Jafari to the ground, after which he and two of his entourage kicked and punched him.

The prosecutor said a bottle was used to hit Jafari, who suffered cuts and bruises.

Jafari told the court he was pushed and grabbed by the neck by Mayers' bodyguard outside a restaurant and followed the rapper's group to get back his headphones. He said he was then hit on the head with a bottle and kicked and punched while on the ground.

"We did not want to fight," Jafari said. "I said to them I was a nice guy, not a bad guy. I did not touch any of these three."

PRISON CLOTHES

Earlier, Mayers' lawyer told the judge his client, sitting in prison clothes of a green T-shirt and trousers, pleaded not guilty to the charge of assault and had acted in self-defense.

"Rakim Mayers thought that these people … were attacking his bodyguard and it is on those grounds he subsequently acts," lawyer Slobodan Jovicic told the court.

Mayers will be questioned when the trial resumes on Thursday.

Mayers has said Jafari provoked him and his two companions, who are also charged with assault and pleaded not guilty. If convicted at the Stockholm district court, they could face up to two years in jail.

> **"Rakim Mayers thought that these people … were attacking his bodyguard, and it is on those grounds he subsequently acts."**
>
> Slobodan Jovicic, lawyer for A$AP Rocky

The case has drawn huge media attention, forcing the trial to be moved to a secure courtroom where more than 50 journalists as well as Mayers' mother watched proceedings.

Mayers' detention before his trial prompted angry responses from fans and other celebrities, including Kim Kardashian and Rod Stewart.

Trump had asked Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven to help free Mayers, and tweeted messages saying he was disappointed in Lofven and demanding: "Treat Americans fairly!"

Trump had said he would personally vouch for Mayers' bail. Sweden does not have a bail system.

Sweden's judiciary is independent of the political system and Lofven has said he will not influence the rapper's case.

U.S. diplomat Robert C. O'Brien was in court at the request of the White House.

"One of the most important tasks of the Department of State and U.S. embassies and consulates abroad is to provide assistance to U.S. citizens who are detained abroad," a spokeswoman at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm said.

Swedish fan Ivan Waliullah said: "I'm here to show support," adding he thought the three were being charged unfairly.

Mayers, best known for his song "Praise the Lord", was in Stockholm for a concert. He has canceled several shows across Europe due to his detention.

Before his arrest, Mayers uploaded videos on Instagram of the moments before the alleged assault, saying two men were following his team and he did not want any trouble.

Mayers shot to fame with his 2011 debut "Live.Love.A$AP." His latest album "Testing" reached No. 4 on the Billboard 200 charts on its release last year. REUTERS

Ellis to step down as Team USA head coach

2 Jill Ellis, who led the U.S. women's national soccer team to consecutive World Cup victories, will step down as head coach in October, U.S. Soccer said on Tuesday. Ellis, 52, said her decision to step aside as coach of the reigning World Cup champions after its victory tour was in line with the timeline she envisioned when she was first named to the job in May 2014. "The timing is right to move on and the program is positioned to remain at the pinnacle of women's soccer," Ellis, who has a record of 102-7-18, said in a statement. "Change is something I have always embraced in my life and for me and my family this is the right moment." At this year's World Cup in France, Ellis guided her squad to victory in each of their seven games in what was arguably the greatest achievement in the program's history, three years after they missed out on a medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics. REUTERS

Senator proposes bill to ban Snapchat 'Snapstreaks'

3 A bill introduced by a Republican senator on Tuesday aims to curb overuse of social media use by banning Snapchat's Snapstreak feature, among elements on other social media networks. The provision to ban the streak feature on Snap Inc's photo-sharing platform Snapchat is part of Sen. Josh Hawley's "Social Media Addiction Reduction Technology (SMART) Act" to ban "addictive and deceptive techniques" by social media companies, a statement said. The Snapstreak feature displays the number of days a Snapchat user has continuously sent photos to another user. If a streak goes unattended for 24 hours, it disappears from the user's app. Some users are so dedicated to their streaks that Snapchat has a form on its website to recover lost streaks that may have disappeared erroneously. REUTERS

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Rats not so good for this Philadelphia neighborhood

The dirty little rodents are overtaking a Lawncrest neighborhood.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

Rats of all shapes and sizes have begun to overtake a Philly neighborhood.

Locals on the 5300 block of Howland Street in Lawncrest are feeling like they're being held hostage by the immense and forever growing rat population in their neighborhood.

ABC reported that Lawncrest residents have been spotting rats at all hours of the day.

It was reported that the rodent infestation has overtaken locals' lawns. They're causing quite the stir in the neighborhood, as ABC reported that locals are concerned about the overwhelming number of rats.

Some locals are rethinking their garbage route and even purchasing their own rat poison and putting it around the house. Lucky for the locals, the Health Department has supplied them with black plastic traps in hopes of combating the rodent problem.

The Health Department hired Vector Control to assist with this investigation. Vector Control has been going door to door, inspecting the area. Vector Control is also setting out traps to catch the rats near their burrowed holes.

If you're concerned about wild rats in your neighborhood, according to the Humane Society, you should be looking for: droppings, gnawed holes that can be up to 2 inches wide in doorframes or baseboards; smudge marks on the wall (from their body oils); the sound of movement within your home, especially walls; and if your family pet is staring at a blank wall.

The Humane Society said the best way to prevent rat infestations is with good hygiene. They suggest "clearing away any rubbish piled close to buildings to expose burrows and openings that rats might use to get in. Store food in ratproof containers, such as galvanized cans with tight-fitting lids. This includes birdseed, grass seed, and other possible foods kept in garages and/or outbuildings. Store and dispose of garbage properly, so that rats can't get into it. If you feed your pets outside, leave the food out for just long enough to be eaten, and then remove it. Clean up pet droppings from the yard every day. Remove old wood or rubbish from the property since these are regular rat hangouts."

ABC reported that the Health Department said, "There is no immediate fix." It was also reported by NBC that rat poison takes up five days to work.

In a statement, the Health Department said: "Inspectors checked the burrows Friday, 7/26, due to the three- to five-day lag time before they start to see results from the baiting. They found burrows on two additional properties and baited them and put down bait boxes. Inspectors were out on Saturday and rebaited, this means that they took the bait — which is a good sign. Those that consumed it should be feeling the effects by now. At that visit, one neighbor mentioned seeing an improvement."

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Discovery 6603 STUDY

Motive for slayings at California festival still unclear two days later

REUTERS

California police on Tuesday were still trying to determine why a teenager went on a shooting rampage over the weekend at a popular food festival south of San Jose, killing a 6-year-old boy, a 13-year-old girl and a man in his 20s.

Santino William Legan, 19, cut through a fence at the Gilroy Garlic Festival on Sunday and shot people, seemingly at random, with an assault-style rifle, according to police in Gilroy, about 30 miles southeast of San Jose. Police officers on the scene fatally shot the gunman within about a minute of him opening fire.

The police have since obtained search warrants for a home in Gilroy associated with the suspect and the car they believe he drove to the festival, a decades-old annual event celebrating the produce farmed in the countryside of California's Santa Clara Valley.

Police and FBI agents were also looking into unconfirmed reports by witnesses that Legan may have had an accomplice.

Police believe Legan, who was originally from Gilroy, purchased the rifle legally on July 9 in Nevada, where he had recently been living.

The slayings in Gilroy were the latest in a string of mass shootings that have plagued the United States, including the November 2018 shooting in a crowded Southern California bar, in which 12 people died; the February 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, in which 17 people died, and the October 2018 attack at a Pittsburgh synagogue that killed 11 people.

The epidemic has fueled a national debate pitting advocates of tighter gun controls against those who oppose further restrictions on the right to bear arms under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

It is illegal to own military-style semiautomatic rifles in California, and Gov. Gavin Newsom used a visit to Gilroy on Tuesday to decry what he said was the undermining of the state's gun control laws by looser regulations in nearby states and the federal government.

"You can't put borders up, speaking of borders, to a neighboring state where you can buy this damn stuff legally," he told reporters after visiting victims and their families. "How in the hell is that possible? I have no problem with the Second Amendment. You have a right to bear arms, but not weapons of godd—d mass destruction."

Shortly before the attack in Gilroy, several posts were published on what appeared to be Legan's Instagram account, including one featuring a photograph of Sunday's festival. One urged people to read "Might Is Right," an obscure racist and sexist tract written in the 19th century. REUTERS

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President Trump tours Jamestown Settlement Museum in Williamsburg, Virginia. REUTERS

Trump condemns slavery in Jamestown speech

The president's speech was interrupted by a heckling Virginia legislator.

President Donald Trump, under fire in D.C. for verbal attacks on lawmakers of color, condemned American slavery on Tuesday at the 400th anniversary of the first legislative assembly in Virginia and was briefly interrupted by a protesting state legislator.

Trump gave a scripted speech at the site of the first legislative assembly in Jamestown, Virginia, after touring the Jamestown church and a mock 1619 village.

In his remarks, he honored the first people to form a government in what would become the United States but also recognized their importation of slaves in 1619 in the same region.

"It was the beginning of a barbaric trade of human lives," he said. "Today in honor, we remember every sacred soul who suffered the horrors of slavery and the anguish of bondage."

Trump's comments, in which he also honored African-Americans' contributions to U.S. history and quoted civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., followed two weeks of incendiary remarks about the four House "squad" members and Rep. Elijah Cummings, all of whom have been sharp critics of the president.

Trump has blasted Cummings for not doing more to improve the plight of Baltimore, a largely black city, which he said is "rodent-infested." Trump has faced accusations of racism and bigotry for the remarks.

Virginia's black state legislators had said they would boycott Trump's appearance after his harsh comments about the members of Congress. A statement from the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus said it was "impossible to ignore the emblem of hate and disdain that the president represents" while he continues to "promulgate policies that harm marginalized communities and use racist and xenophobic rhetoric."

Trump's address in Jamestown was interrupted briefly by Democratic Virginia Delegate Ibraheem Samirah, who shouted and held up a sign that said: "Go back to your corrupted home. Deport hate. Reunite my family and all those shattered by systemic discrimination."

> **"The man is unfit for office and unfit to partake in a celebration of democracy, representation and our nation's history of immigrants."**
>
> Democratic Virginia Delegate Ibraheem Samirah

Samirah, a Palestinian-American dentist, later said in a Twitter post that he had disrupted Trump's speech at Jamestown "because nobody's racism and bigotry should be excused for the sake of being polite."

"The man is unfit for office and unfit to partake in a celebration of democracy, representation and our nation's history of immigrants," Samirah said.

The Virginia Republican Party later released a statement accusing Samirah of being anti-Semitic.

REUTERS

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REUTERS

Capital One shares drop on questions over hack

Capital One Financial Corp.'s assurances that a major data breach would have a limited impact on customers or profits failed to convince investors on Tuesday, with the bank's shares down more than 7 percent.

Capital One said the prior day that 106 million people who had applied for credit cards in the United States and Canada had their personal data exposed.

The bank expects the incident to cost $100 million to $150 million this year, some of which may be covered by a sizable insurance policy. It also confirmed prior guidance that operating efficiency would improve.

However, investors are wary, given the scale of the breach, the reputational impact on Capital One and likelihood of additional costs, analysts said.

"We are skeptical of management's implication that an issue of this magnitude will not impact go-forward earnings & efficiency expectations," Evercore ISI analyst John Pancari wrote to clients.

Analysts pointed to the legal expenses and possible regulatory penalties Capital One might face. By Tuesday morning, a class-action lawsuit had been filed in federal court and the state attorneys general of New York and Connecticut each said their offices would begin probing the matter.

The breach stemmed from Capital One's decision to store data in Amazon.com Inc.'s cloud unit, called Amazon Web Services (AWS), where a former employee named Paige Thompson managed to access its data. She was charged with computer fraud by federal prosecutors in Seattle and made her first court appearance on Monday.

> **"We are skeptical of management's implication that an issue of this magnitude will not impact go-forward earnings & efficiency expectations."**
>
> John Pancari, Evercore ISI analyst

Amazon said its cloud unit that stored the data was not compromised in any way. Instead, it attributed the breach to a "misconfiguration" outside of the cloud.

Capital One attributed the problem to an error in its own infrastructure. The bank has been an enthusiastic adopter of external cloud services, with senior executives appearing at AWS events or touting the benefits.

Amazon shares were down about 0.8 percent on Tuesday morning.

Capital One did not have an immediate response to Reuters' questions about its technological vulnerabilities on Tuesday. But analysts said its reliance on a third-party provider would come under new scrutiny.

The incident "raises questions on how best to police and protect client information," said Morgan Stanley analyst Betsy Graseck.

"Today's revelation reminds investors of the trust that financial institutions place in their client-facing employees and highlights risks of outsourcing any part of client-facing operations," Graseck wrote in a report.

She expects the shares to remain under pressure as investors question whether the bank has other cloud-based vulnerabilities, and whether there will be additional regulatory scrutiny and expenses.

REUTERS

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GETTY IMAGES

Women's Team USA get equal-pay support from men's squad

The World Cup-winning women's team filed a lawsuit in March seeking equal pay.

The U.S. men's team on Tuesday accused the U.S. Soccer Federation of refusing to pay national team players a fair share of generated revenue as they gave their support to the women's squad in their equal-pay lawsuit.

The women's team filed their lawsuit in March and will soon head into mediation with U.S. Soccer, whose president said on Monday in an open letter that the body had paid the women's team more than the men's team in recent years.

The United States National Soccer Team Players Association (USNSTPA), the labor organization for members of the men's national team, said it was not impressed with the details of Carlos Cordeiro's letter.

"This is more of the same from a Federation that is constantly in disputes and litigation and focuses on increasing revenue and profits without any idea how to use that money to grow the sport," the USNSTPA said in a statement.

"One way to increase profit unfairly is to refuse to pay national team players a fair share of the revenue they generate."

The U.S. Soccer Federation did not immediately respond when asked to comment.

Cordeiro said in his letter that analysis of financial data showed the women's team were paid $34.1 million from 2010-2018 in salaries and bonuses compared to $26.4 million for the men's team over the same period.

The letter stated the totals do not include money received by U.S. Soccer from FIFA for World Cup bonuses and that if that money is included, the men earned $41 million during the same 2010-2018 period compared to $39.7 million for the women.

Each member of the women's team, that won a record-extending fourth World Cup three weeks ago, were named as plaintiffs in federal court when their lawsuit was filed.

It included complaints about wages and nearly every other aspect of their working conditions .

The players, including Megan Rapinoe, Carli Lloyd and Alex Morgan, said they have been consistently paid less money than their male counterparts even though their performance has been superior to the men's team.

The lawsuit alleges years of institutionalized gender discrimination, and says travel conditions, medical personnel, promotion of games and training are less favorable for female players compared to their male counterparts.

> **"The only solution Mr. Cordeiro proposes is for fans to buy more tickets and watch more games on television."**
> USWNT

"The only solution Mr. Cordeiro proposes is for fans to buy more tickets and watch more games on television," the USNSTPA said.

"He conceals the fact that the money will not go to USWNT players when sponsors pay the Federation to support the USWNT, fans buy tickets to USWNT games at ever-increasing ticket prices, and television companies pay more when more fans watch USWNT games. That is neither fair nor equitable." REUTERS

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Fans to sue after soccer icon Ronaldo sits out Juventus friendly in S. Korea

Cristiano Ronaldo GETTY IMAGES

Soccer fans in South Korea are taking legal action to seek compensation after Cristiano Ronaldo failed to play in a friendly during Juventus' pre-season tour in Seoul last week.

Ronaldo had been contracted to play at least 45 minutes against K League All Stars, according to event organizers The Fasta Inc, but ultimately sat out the entire game at a packed Seoul World Cup Stadium.

An online community was formed on South Korea's Naver web portal to protest Ronaldo's lack of participation, and two members reached out to lawyer Kim Min-ki to file a lawsuit against the match organizers.

"Many purchased tickets to see Ronaldo. The Fasta publicized that the company had a deal with Juventus which stipulated Ronaldo would play for at least 45 minutes and that Ronaldo would hold a fan signing event."

Kim Min-ki, lawyer

"Many purchased tickets to see Ronaldo. The Fasta publicized that the company had a deal with Juventus which stipulated Ronaldowould play for at least 45 minutes and that Ronaldo would hold a fan signing event," Kim told Reuters.

Phone calls to The Fasta by Reuters were not answered, while officials at Juventus did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

The lawsuit is seeking compensation of 70,000 won ($59) per ticket, 1,000 won for the ticket commission fee, and 1 million won ($847) each for compensation for "mental anguish."

"Normally in such cases the plaintiffs will be refunded the price of the tickets, but I put this under a special case since the company, through false advertising, took advantage of the football star's fans," Kim added.

"For now we have two plaintiffs who sued the company, but I have been getting a lot of calls today and I assume there will be some 60,000 more.

"As for the mental anguish part, I'd like to say some of them are raucous fans, the real avid fans. So for them it is very painful because they love Ronaldo and want to protect him, but they can't, given the situation."

The Fasta CEO Robin Chang confirmed to local broadcaster SBS that the contract stipulated Ronaldo play 45 minutes and said she found out that the 34-year-old would not take part 10 minutes into the second half.

"When I went to argue with (Pavel) Nedved, the vice president of Juventus, all he said was 'I also wish Ronaldo ran, but he doesn't want to. Sorry, there's nothing I can do.' I was so frustrated," Chang told SBS.

The Fasta issued a press release on Saturday saying Juventus did not abide by the terms of the contract. South Korea's professional soccer governing body, K League, said on Tuesday that it had sent a letter of protest to Juventus for violating the contract. REUTERS

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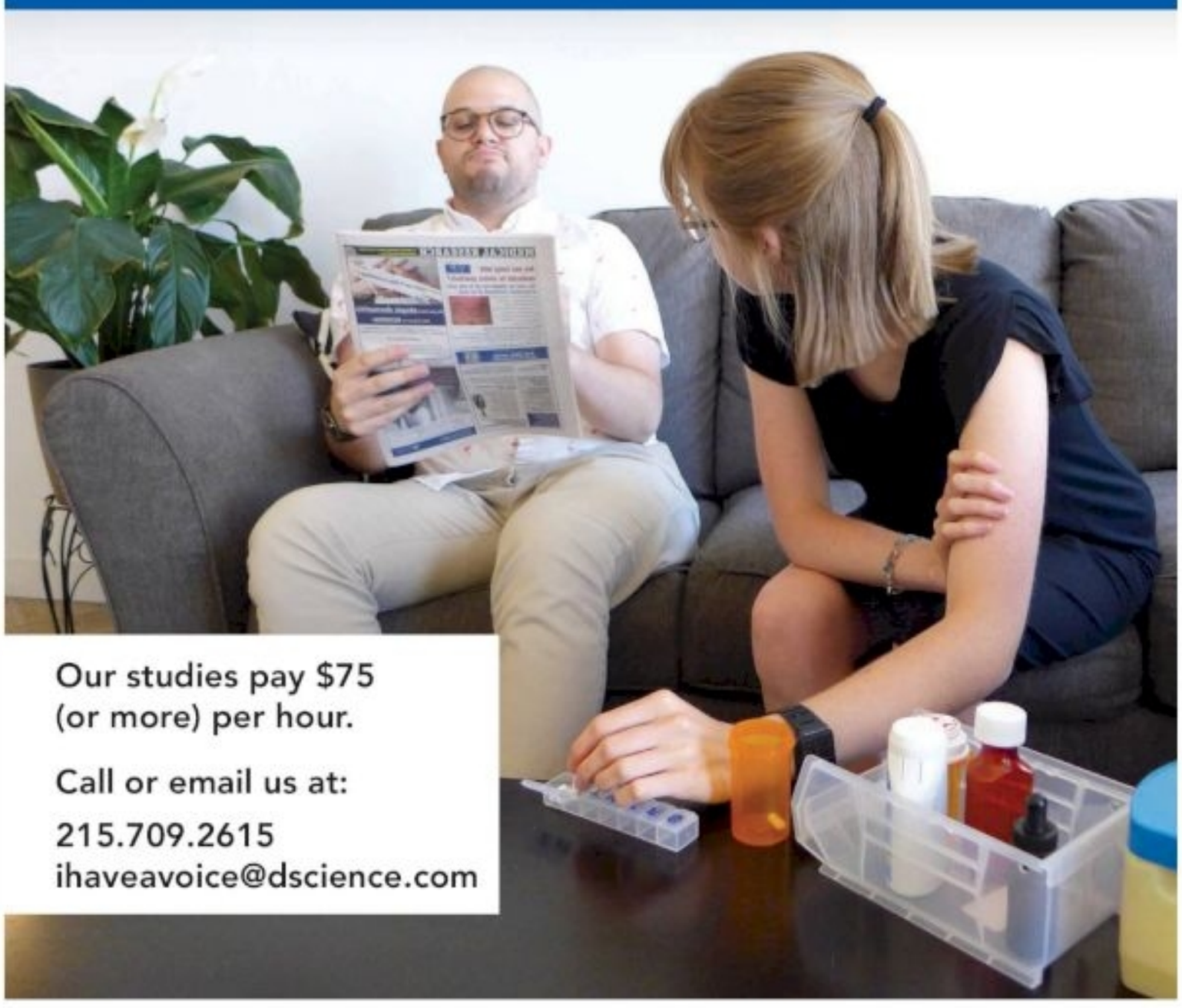

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'Unmasking Jihadi John' finds out how ISIS recruits everyday people

The new HBO documentary premieres tonight at 8 p.m.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

When reading or watching reports on some of the horrific acts of terrorism being committed around the globe, one central question usually comes to mind: What makes someone subscribe to such evil and dangerous beliefs? The new HBO documentary "Unmasking Jihadi John: The Anatomy of a Terrorist," premiering tonight at 8 p.m., aims to find out this answer. Director Anthony Wonke spent years delving into the background of the London-born Mohammed Emwazi, who grew up to become one of the most notorious and brutal ISIS terrorists in Syria and was one of the men who carried out beheadings in 2014 and 2015, including that of American journalist James Foley.

The film features a detailed account of Emwazi's upbringing and includes interviews with aid workers and journalists who survived being held hostage and the stories of those who were executed under his captivity. Wonke first heard of ISIS after finding out that one of the fathers of the children he had covered in his film "Syria: Children on the Frontline" had been kidnapped by the organization. He later learned about Jihadi John like the rest of us: through social media and news headlines. He felt the public needed to know more.

"I think one of the things that you realized is that the story of Jihadi John was only being serviced in the news and the current-affairs arena. It hadn't been explored more deeply in a resonate way, more than just the polarizing headlines," explains Wonke on why he felt as though he needed to tell Emwazi's story. "It's a very interesting way of not only looking into his radicalization and what happened — how a boy from Northwest London who went to a very good university in a very short period of time could be radicalized and groomed to such a degree that he would commit these barbaric acts. Not only by looking at that single narrative do you understand more about him and what happened to him as an individual, but it asks much bigger questions about the geopolitical context of all of this. How did this happen? Why was it that this terrorist state was able to grow as much as it did and what were the tools that enabled them to grow? As a filmmaker, you look at this as very rich terrain and a very important subject that needs to be told."

Wonke also got testimony from operatives who helped to bring Emwazi to justice as well as reporters who helped to gather information on his identity. One of those journalists is writer-producer Richard Kerbaj, who covered this story as well as the ongoing conflict in the Middle East for the Sunday Times.

"I've been reporting on national security for over a decade, particularly covering Islamic extremism," says Kerbaj. "The video of Jim Foley was broadcasted on social media and it quickly became evidence that ISIS was not your normal Islamic extremist organization. They had this ability to weaponize propaganda and leverage platforms on social media to push out messages of both hate and messages about why you should go out and fight with them. That's how they would start recruiting people. I wanted to tell a story about ISIS, but particularly I wanted to tell a story about this character. Of course, Jihadi John would go on to encapsulate and embody everything that is evil about this terrorist organization. What made his story so compelling was, he was a nice man with a British accent who became known to the world when he stood by Jim Foley, an American journalist who was trying to inform the world about the brutality of ISIS."

The captivating documentary "Unmasking Jihadi John: The Anatomy of a Terrorist" premieres tonight at 8 p.m. on HBO.

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Wonders from the sky at the Drone Awards 2019

For the second, year the Drone Awards surprise us with magnificent photos taken from the air. The call for entries is open all over the world through its website, where organizers explain that "photographs of any aerial platform are welcome." Here we leave you with the winners of this 2019.

MWN|PHOTOS: DRONE AWARDS

1"A Shoal of Colorful Fish"
Jacek Deneka's photograph won as the photo of the year.

2 "Infinity Eight"
Marc Le Cornu was the author of the winning photo in the Abstract category.

3 "Crabeater Seals on ice"
Florian Ledoux captured the winning image of the Wildlife category.

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Fountains of fun

Historic Franklin Square Fountain's show and summer series kicks off this week.

MOLLY GIVEN
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The Fountain's day show. ALL PHOTOS JEFF FUSCO/ HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA

This Wednesday marks an important occasion for the 180-year-old Franklin Square Fountain. Not only is it the Square's 13th birthday, it's also the official grand opening of the 2019 Fountain Show—and everyone is invited out to celebrate.

The Franklin Square Fountain Show will dazzle Philadelphians and visitors during intimate daytime and nighttime shows choreographed by popular songs from Boyz II Men, Katy Perry, Louis Armstrong and more. The Fountain will certainly strut its stuff during its daytime performances and offer guests a fun way to cool down during the summer heat, then when the sun goes down the show will dazzle audiences with accompanying lights synchronized with the music as well. Both performances are truly a sight you just have to see to believe.

Head to the official opening this Wednesday (July 31) to be one of the first to experience the mesmerizing show. The first daytime performance will begin at noon and will be followed by free birthday cupcakes with Benjamin Franklin and the Phillie Phanatic, fun family activities throughout the day and free carousel rides. The first nighttime show will begin at 8:30 p.m.

The Franklin Fountain Show premieres this week.

and throughout the evening Philadelphians can enjoy music, Colonial lawn games, inaugural competitions of B-E-N-G-O and Deborah Franklin Quizzo, and cocktails in the pop-up Oasis Cocktail Garden (typically open Thursday-Saturday).

But the fun does not stop after the grand opening celebrations; according to the release Historic Philadelphia will present Summer Splash in the Square throughout the whole month of August with a series of free movies, yoga, games, music and much more.

Every Thursday in August (starting Aug. 1) is throwback night with DJ Robert Drake (5 p.m.-10 p.m., free). Guests can jam out to different musical eras – from the classics in the '60s all the way to new millennial beats of the early 2000s. Decade attire is also encouraged for each themed night.

If you're not quite in the dancing mood, head to the Franklin Fountain on Friday nights to join in on free weekly games (5 p.m.- 10 p.m., free) or catch a flick during Super Movie Saturdays (5 p.m.-10 p.m., free). Philadelphians can catch "Shazam!," "Superman," "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," "The Incredibles" and "Wonder Woman" every Saturday in August for the perfect summer evening.

On Sundays bring the whole family out to the Fountain's Fun in the Sun-days. According to the release, on Sundays Franklin Square becomes a summer oasis without the shore traffic as lawn games, musical chairs, bocce, and volleyball fill the Great Lawn with fun for all ages and prizes. There will also be yoga at 11 a.m., Once Upon A Nation's Colonial Kids' Quest puppet show from 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m., and the daytime Fountain performances from noon to 2 p.m.

Summer Splash in the Square will run from Aug. 1-Sept. 1, Thursdays-Saturdays, 5 p.m.-10 p.m. with first nightly performance at 6 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m., with first performance at noon. For more information on Franklin Square Fountain visit historicphiladelphia.org

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Indulge in some self care with these drinks inspired by the Fab 5

Fishtown bakery Cake Life Bake Shop shows its love for "Queer Eye."

MADELINE PRESLAND
letters@metro.us

Head to Cake Life to try the Fab 5 specialty drinks. PROVIDED

It's all about taking a few minutes for yourself.

The "hero" transformation experts from Netflix's "Queer Eye" are currently filming in Philly for their next season, due to air in 2020. The Fab 5 have been spotted visiting restaurants and stores throughout the city (including La Colombe's flagship cafe and Cry Baby Pasta), but one Fishtown bakery hopes to catch the attention of the show's famous hosts.

Cake Life (1306 Frankford Ave.) is known for its decadent specialty cakes as well as its more casual cafe where you can buy a variety of pastries and coffee. Behind the pastry cases, an illustrated menu lists drink specials created in honor of Jonathan Van Ness, Karamo, Tan France, Bobby Berk and Antoni Porowski.

"We are all 'Queer Eye' super fans here," said manager Chrissy Tomasco. "We would love nothing more than to have the Fab 5 come to our shop, and not even for the cameras. We just want to shower them with love, pastries and cake."

Try one of these specialty drink and pastry pairings for a peak self-care experience.

Struggs to Func - Bobby Berk

Get in the mood to design and freshen up a space like Bobby with this sparkling orange and matcha beverage. Pair it with a honey shortbread cookie topped with violet sugar, pistachios and dried raspberries. The drink was inspired by a cocktail Berk made on the show, and this combination is the perfect blend of summer flavors.

The Gorg - Jonathan Van Ness

A "cinnamon toast crunch" latte is a nod to JVN's love for cinnamon and coffee. Pair with a flaky plain croissant for a fabulous breakfast.

The Zaddy - Karamo

"Karamo talks about how much he loves Coca-Cola, so we honored his drink choice by creating a float," said Tomasco. The cherry and cola float is a treat on its own, but adding a sour-cherry hand pie forms a happy duo.

Black & Tanni - Tan France

A serious caffeine boost is needed to pay tribute to the energetic Tan. The Black & Tanni is a cold brew and chai float to help you present the best version of yourself. Splurge on a baklava kouign-amann ice cream sandwich for the perfect sweet and spicy balance.

The French Tuck - Antoni Porowski

The food expert's favorite midnight snack is a salted caramel chocolate bar, so sip on Cake Life's salted caramel latte to bring a little more enjoyment to your life. For the chocolate element, Tomasco pairs this drink with a chocolate chip walnut cookie that gets a sprinkle of sea salt before baking.

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

Today at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** we take a betting glance at a pair of NFC North teams and dish out some wagering advice on win total over-unders.

Vikings

The Vikings were one of the NFL's biggest disappointments in 2018 as they missed the postseason with an 8-7-1 record.

But here's saying that Minnesota will right the ship this season.

The Vikings brought in former Super Bowl winning coach Gary Kubiak as a top assistant to Mike Zimmer, and Kubiak is known for his ability to coach up QBs with a ton of play-action options. Cousins thrived at times in Washington with play-action, but did not get to incorporate it much in his first season in Minny.

The Vikes will return the entirety of their stout defense as well, a unit that gave up just 196.3 passing yards per game last season (best in the NFC).

The play: $10 on Vikings Over 9 wins at **MetroBet.us/Sugar**

Bears

In addition to the Vikings improving from last year, I also like the Packers and the Lions to be better – meaning that most of this division is going to be huddled around 7, 8 or 9 wins just before the New Year.

The Bears still have a very strong roster, and return the brunt of a defense that finished first in fewest points allowed in 2018 (just 17.7 per game). But the mastermind of that defense is now in Denver (Vic Fangio).

GETTY IMAGES

Offensively, the jury is still out on whether or not Mitch Trubisky can be a top 15 quarterback – let alone a top 10 QB. And Chicago dealt its top rusher from a season ago, in Jordan Howard, to the Eagles.

The 9.5 win total at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** seems a smidge high. Taking the Under here.

The play: $10 on Bears Under 9.5 wins at **MetroBet.us/Sugar**

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Best Bets

Giants at Phillies

The Giants are in good position to improve on their 18-4 July when they face the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park on Wednesday.

Jeff Samardzija (7-8, 3.95 ERA) will be on the hill for the Giants, and he's pitched to a 2.48 ERA and 0.888 WHIP in five starts this month. The Notre Dame product has faced Phillies right fielder Bryce Harper 18 times, allowing just three hits, all singles.

Vince Velazquez (3-5, 4.46 ERA) counters for Philadelphia. He's produced a 5.00 ERA since rejoining the rotation on June 16 (six starts). That includes 5 2/3 innings of shutout baseball against the punchless Tigers on July 24, in which he threw 110 pitches.

The disparity in relief pitching for these two clubs is stark, as San Francisco's bullpen owns a 3.78 ERA over the last 30 days, good for second in the baseball. On the other hand, the Phillies relief corps owns a 4.75 ERA in the same span, ranking 20th.

The play: Giants moneyline

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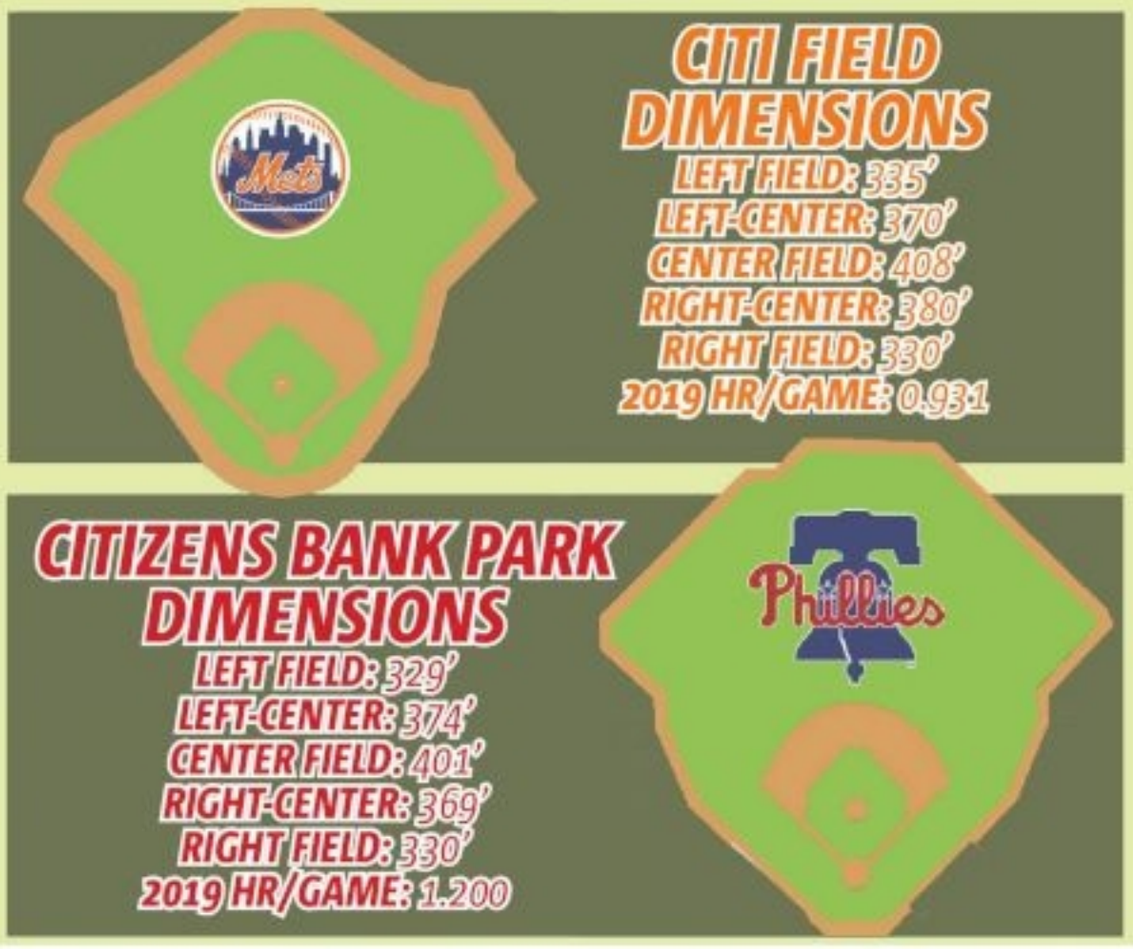
What are Phils getting in Jason Vargas?

The Phillies acquired Jason Vargas on Monday from the New York Mets. GETTY IMAGES

VARGAS SET FOR UN-FRIENDLY CONFINES?

THE NEWEST PHILLIES STARTER STRUGGLED AWAY FROM CITI FIELD DURING HIS TIME WITH THE METS. JUST HOW MUCH TROUBLE WILL CITIZENS BANK PARK PROVIDE?



The Phillies picked up the veteran southpaw on Monday from the Mets.

JOE PANTORNO
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By no means did the Philadelphia Phillies pick up a top-end starter when they traded for Jason Vargas on Monday evening.

The veteran left-hander who spent the past year-plus with the Mets had an inconsistent run in Queens — a familiar theme over his 14-year career.

In 38 starts since Opening Day 2018, Vargas is 13-14 with a 4.88 ERA.

Adding those kinds of numbers to a struggling Phillies rotation doesn't necessarily bode well.

The rotation behind Aaron Nola has had issues all — ranging from Jake Arrieta's bone spur to Zach Eflin's "heavy body", to Nick Pivetta's demotion to the bullpen.

Philadelphia's combined starting rotation of 4.59 ranks right in the middle of the league, which doesn't suggest things are as bad as they seem. However, a lack of dependable arms has made played a major role in the Phillies' summer drop down the NL East standings.

Does Vargas necessarily help improve the staff?

That's a loaded question.

There's no denying that Vargas has pitched better over the last three months. After sporting a 7.20 ERA after his first four starts of the year, the 36-year-old has gotten that number down to 4.01.

It was as low as 3.96 before giving up three runs in 5.2 innings of work against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday.

Still, a 3.32 ERA since Apr. 24 is a solid number. Especially for a starter projected to slot in toward the middle-to-bottom of the Phillies' rotation.

Vargas is capable of eating innings, which would be good news for the Phillies' shorthanded bullpen. He's gone at least five innings in each of his last six starts, providing a bit of consistency as the No. 5 arm in the Mets' rotation.

The southpaw is by no means a fire-baller. His four-seam fastball averages just over 84 miles-per-hour (per Fangraphs) in a limited repertoire that includes a changeup (78 mph average) and a slow curve that comes in at just over 70 mph.

Even with slower stuff, Vargas' average exit velocity on balls hit against him is ranked 16th-lowest in the majors.

While that's promising when entering a new home in Citizens Bank Park that is prone to the long ball, his average launch angle ranks 18th-highest in the league, per Statcast.

Lots of fly balls won't bode well in Philadelphia.

It shows in his splits with the Mets as Vargas benefitted from hurling at a pitcher-friendly park like Citi Field:

JASON VARGAS SPLITS WITH METS

AT CITI FIELD: *85 INNINGS PITCHED, 3.39 ERA, 9 HR*
ON ROAD: *101.1 INNINGS PITCHED, 6.13 ERA, 23 HR*

If the Phillies want to get back in the playoff hunt and stay there, one more top-end arm might be needed.

Vargas is expected to make his Phillies debut on Friday or Saturday against the Chicago White Sox at Citizens Bank Park.

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Aries Speak up if you want to make a difference. You'll face opposition, but if you are willing to listen, compromise and work alongside others, much can be accomplished.

Taurus Let your actions speak for you. What you do to put others at ease or to make life better will reflect who you are and what you care about.

Gemini Keep life simple and refuse to be pushed in a direction that isn't good for you. Use your experience to guide you, and speak out to ensure you aren't taken for granted.

Cancer Share your opinions and beliefs only with like-minded souls. If you tangle with someone who has a different agenda, you will end up losing ground. Fight for your rights.

Leo You can try something new without going overboard. Keep your cash in a safe place until you find something in which you really want to invest your time and money.

Virgo You are overdue for a change. Look over the possibilities and take a step in a direction that interests you. Meeting exciting people or sharing with a loved one is encouraged.

Libra You'll have some great ideas, but before you begin something new, take care of your responsibilities. Keep the peace in order to limit interference.

Scorpio Size up what it is you want to do. Go over your plans and take the path that most interests you. Learn as you go and enjoy what you discover.

Sagittarius Be careful with anyone who appears to be acting strange or is trying to sell you something you don't need or want. Only make a move, change or purchase if it's absolutely necessary.

Capricorn Don't expect everyone to like your actions, but do your best to help them understand your motives. How you handle others will affect the way things turn out.

Aquarius Don't let your temper get the better of you. Poor choices will be the result of acting too quickly or making assumptions. Concentrate on personal growth, not on changing others.

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GAMES

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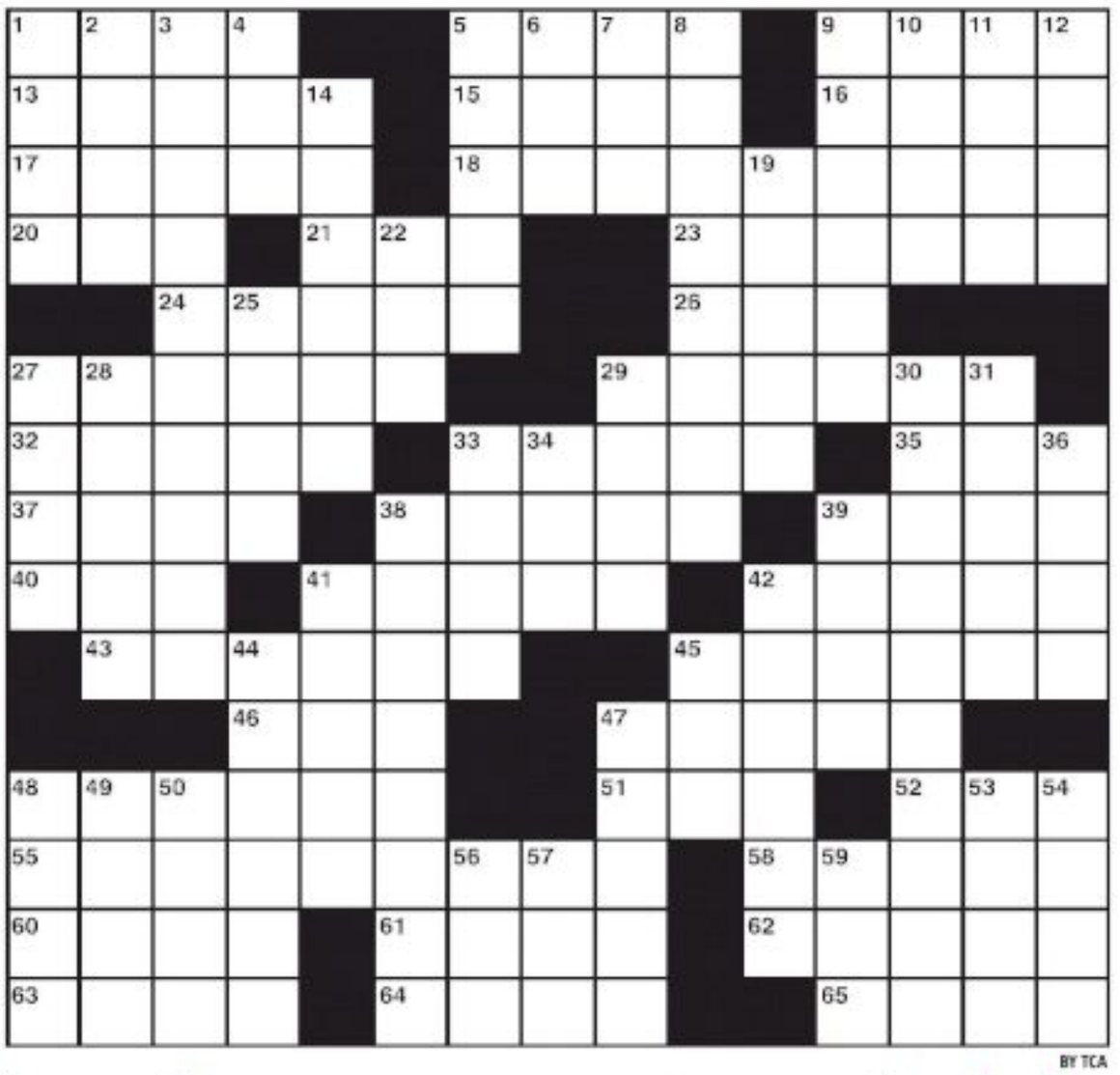
ACROSS
1 Highly self-satisfied
5 Snakelike fishes
9 Bounce back
13 Pinot noir & Riesling
15 Bona fide
16 __ off; display
17 Walk leisurely
18 Cutback
20 Eskimo __; ice cream treat
21 Siesta hour
23 Ulysses & Amy
24 Role player
26 Gangster's gun
27 Self-esteem
29 Least bananas
32 Enraged
33 Irish poet
35 Tack
37 Captures
38 Circular
39 Tibia or vomer
40 Sick
41 Hits hard
42 Sizable
43 Made watertight
45 Inclined
46 Pistol
47 Paper money
48 Elsewhere
51 "__ Lazy River"
52 Skillet
55 Moseyed
58 Stop
60 Sword handle
61 __ up on; study about
62 Long tales
63 BPOE folks
64 Lively
65 Circus enclosure

DOWN
1 Trade
2 Rogers or Kennedy
3 Intolerable
4 Vaseline, e.g.
5 Boo-boo
6 Wide shoe width
7 Youth
8 Lazy person
9 Holdings
10 Boxer's target
11 Owl's call
12 Possesses
14 __ out of court; avoid a trial
19 Huge hoisting machine
22 Misery
25 Lions & lynxes
27 Skirt style
28 Some grad exams
29 "My Three __" of old TV
30 Where trades are analyzed
31 Slight staining
33 Fungal growth
34 Not at home
36 "All You __ Is Love"; Beatles hit
38 Goes in again
39 On the __; alert
41 Lacking tact
42 Colorful fragrant flowers
44 Secret __; spies
45 Waiter's hope
47 Chum
48 Arthur with a racket
49 Bondsman's offering
50 Pout
53 Slippery __ eel
54 Wasp's home
56 Legislator's title: abbr.
57 Hearing organ
59 Dine



BY TCA

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O	O	D	I	R	E	G	D	I	D
A	C	A	M	A	P	C	D	O	M
N	R	X	S	K	I	T	U	T	O
E	W	O	X	A	P	H	O	O	N
U	T	P	K	N	C	E	C	K	O
Q	H	H	I	T	A	R	A	R	C
V	F	O	L	E	L	E	R	H	H
M	H	N	S	L	A	M	I	L	O
H	A	E	U	E	T	I	N	I	R
G	Q	R	G	Y	S	N	A	L	D

Crwth
Daxophone
Didgeridoo
Gusli
Kantele
Kora
Koto
Lur
Monochord
Ocarina
Oud
Quena
Stalacpipe
Theremin
Xaphoon

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Category: Film

P	E	O	F	W
A	R	E	T	A
H	S	E	H	T

Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.

metro.us/sudoku

	1			3		9		
	9		8	4			7	5
6		7	5			8		
			4		3		8	7
				1				
7	2		6		8			
		9			5	2		1
2	5			8	4		3	
		3		6			5	

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Yesterday's Answers

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T	O	T	S	■	U	N	I	O	N	■	A	C	H	E
S	C	A	T	■	S	T	O	I	C	■	C	H	I	T
■	A	R	I	S	T	O	T	L	E	■	L	O	P	E
■	■	■	C	H	I	P	■	■	S	P	Y	■	■	■
S	I	C	K	E	N	■	B	O	T	A	N	I	S	T
P	R	O	U	D	■	B	L	U	R	T	■	S	A	Y
R	A	M	P	■	P	I	E	T	Y	■	S	A	L	K
A	T	E	■	M	A	T	E	S	■	L	E	A	V	E
T	E	T	H	E	R	E	D	■	P	I	E	C	E	S
■	■	■	E	A	T	■	■	T	A	S	K	■	■	■
W	H	O	A	■	A	R	G	E	N	T	I	N	A	■
R	E	A	R	■	K	A	R	A	T	■	N	O	D	S
A	R	T	S	■	E	R	O	S	E	■	G	A	Z	E
P	E	S	T	■	S	E	W	E	D	■	■	H	E	X

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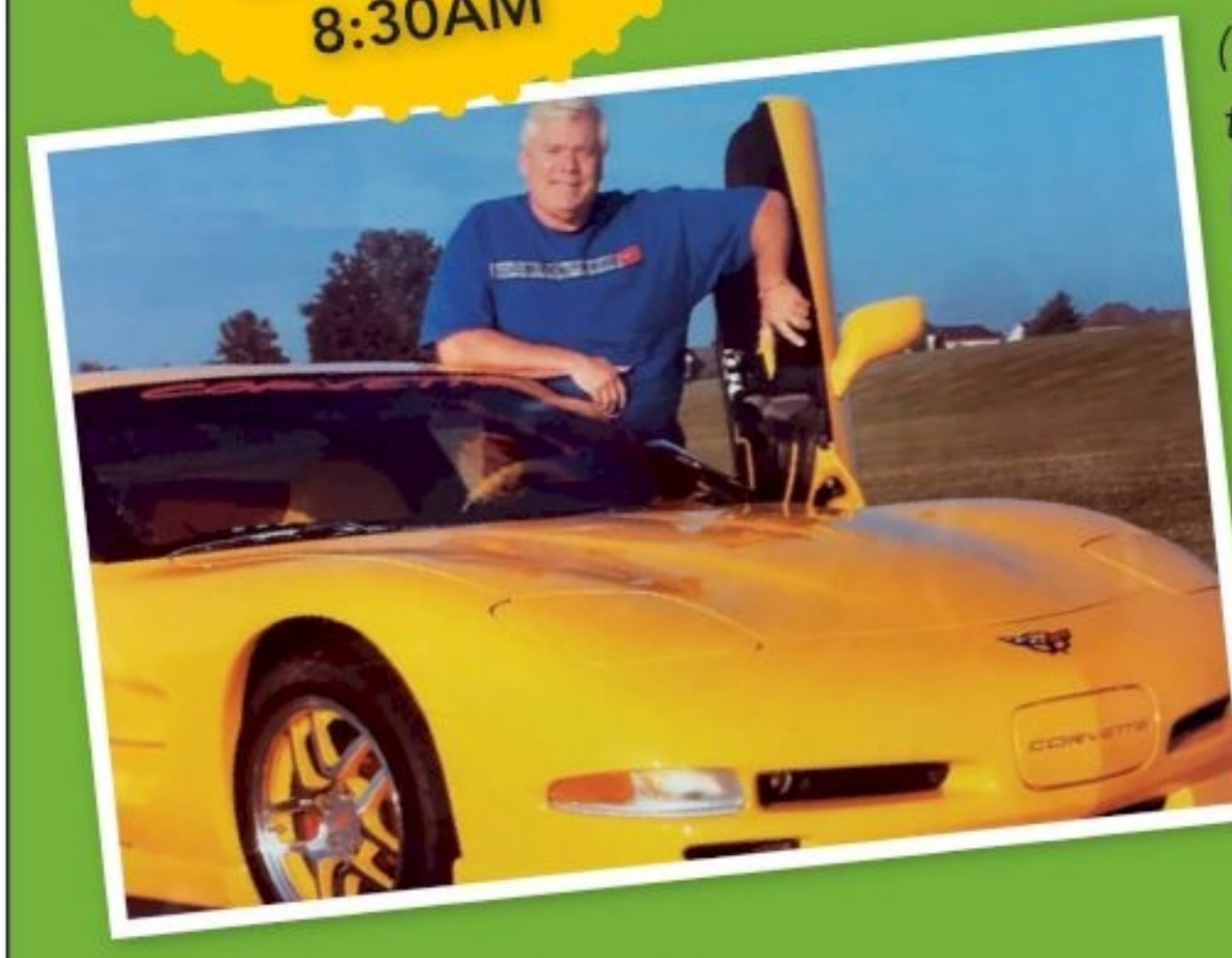

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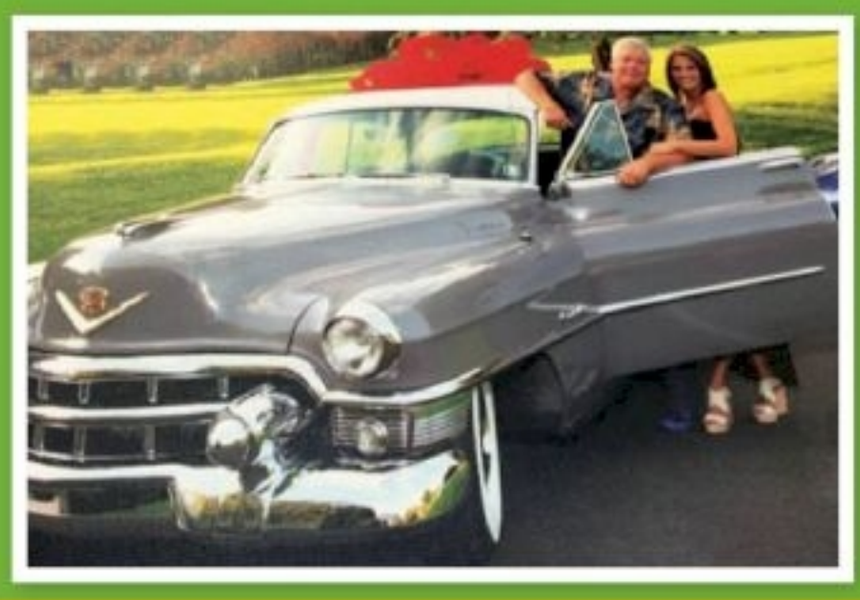

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